

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/748,219

Examiner

Nelson D. Hernandez

Applicant(s)

KAMESHIMA ET AL.

Art Unit

2612

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 12/15/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3, 5-11, 14, 16 and 18-37.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 27 December 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION
EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Raymond Diperna (Attorney on Record) on April 19, 2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claims 27 and 28 are amended in order to be dependent from independent claim 8.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. **Claims 1-3, 5-11, 14, 16, 18-37** are allowed.

3. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Regarding **claims 1 and 22**, the main reason for indication of allowable subject matter is because the prior art fails to teach or reasonably suggest that in order to allow the plural driving means to be driven at the same time, the plural driving means have a start signal input section for starting the plural driving means.

Akimoto, US Patent 5,144,447, discloses an area sensor (Fig. 2) comprising: plural pixels (Fig. 2), each having a switching element (Fig. 2: 4), arranged two-dimensionally; and plural common lines (Fig. 2: 5) which are connected to said

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switching elements corresponding to said pixels which are arrayed in a direction, a control signal being applied to said common line in order to drive said switching element, wherein plural driving means (Fig. 2: YDC and YDC2) for applying said control signal are connected to said common lines (Col. 4, line 67 – col. 5, line 31). However, Akimoto fails to teach or reasonably suggest that in order to allow the plural driving means to be driven at the same time, the plural driving means have a start signal input section for starting the plural driving means.

Regarding **claims 8, 9 and 25**, the main reason for indication of allowable subject matter is because the prior art fails to teach or reasonably suggest that the signal reading is performed, at the same timing, by the plural signal reading means.

Takemoto, US Patent 4,621,291, discloses a an area sensor (Figs. 2, 5 and 7) comprising: plural pixels, each having a switching transistor (Fig. 2: 25) and a photoelectric conversion element (Fig. 2: 24), arranged two-dimensionally; and plural common source lines (Fig. 2: 26) which are connected to the source electrodes of said switching transistors which are arrayed in a direction, wherein plural signal reading means (Fig. 2: 22A and 22B) are connected to said common source lines (Col. 2, lines 5-21; col. 4, lines 43-66). Todaka, US Patent 4,835,617, teaches an image pickup device wherein a common line (Fig. 3: 133) is connected to the gate of the of the switching transistors (Fig. 3: 135) and said common lines are connected to a vertical scanning circuit (Fig. 3: 111) and an auxiliary vertical scanning circuit (Fig. 3: 211) in order to effect the reading and resetting by the separate scanning circuits (Col. 4, lines 9-60; col. 7, lines 52-56). However, Takemoto and Todaka, either in combination or

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alone, fail to teach or reasonably suggest that the signal reading is performed, at the same timing, by the plural signal reading means.

Contact


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nelson D. Hernandez whose telephone number is (571) 272-7311. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 A.M. to 5:30 P.M..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wendy R. Garber can be reached on (571) 272-7308. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Nelson D. Hernandez
Examiner
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NDHH
April 14, 2005


WENDY R. GARBER
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2500